

RECENT FICTION.

A BORDER SHEPHERDESS. A Romance of Eskdale. By ANELIA E. BARK. 12mo, pp. 325. Dodd, Mead & Co.

SCHERERAZADE. A London Night's Entertainment. By FLORENCE WARDEN. 12mo, pp. 348. D. Appleton & Co.

A VILLAGE MAID. By HELEN HAYS. 12mo, pp. 203. Thomas Whitaker.

M Barr is a notable exception to the prevalent fondness for the analysis of life in cities and the excitements of the crowd which characterizes modern fiction. She writes by preference of pastoral scenes, of country life, of the existence into which nature and natural phenomena enter so largely, and of the slower but perhaps clearer development of human virtues and foibles among such surroundings. "A Border Shepherdess" is in her best form. The story is that of a beautiful and noble girl, Faith Harrisse, daughter of an ancient house of Scotch Cameronians; one of those border families which for many generations vexed and harassed the Wards of the Marches with their perennial raids; whose lawless exploits formed the subject of many a stirring ballad; and whose fierce spirits were at last quelled by the fervid preaching of John Knox and his lieutenants. These old moss-troopers, riders, and "rivers," became, upon their conversion, a peculiar class. Earnest and steadfast of nature, they adopted the new faith with an almost fierce zeal, and their energies, always superabundant, became tamed and guided by religion, made of them a singularly upright, independent and prosperous people. No finer stock ever flourished in the three kingdoms, and they made their mark, they and their descendants, in camp and senate, in pulpit and exchange. Of these were the Harrisses, and Faith the flower of her family. Her character is drawn with a free hand, in bold, bold lines. While not devoid of a certain intellectual narrowness, traceable to the dogmatic tendencies of her race and ancestry, this limitation does not interfere with her graciousness and sweetness. Her life is one of sore trial and many afflictions. Among these cannot be counted the faithlessness of her first love, for he is a worthless fellow who comes to no good and would only have ruined her life. But she consecrates herself to the service of a boy brother who has lost his reason through an accident, and she is one of the women to whom devotion and self-sacrifice seem almost necessary. In her maturity she loves Lord Graeme, a neighbor, and is about to be married to him, when he is killed while hunting. Faith is prostrated for a time, but her natural buoyancy recovers her, and in the care of her two young nephews, orphans of a sister who had eloped with Lord Graeme's nephew, she finds consolation. It is a beautiful and admirably told story; quiet, breathing of the heather and the windy uplands, free from every meretricious effect, simple, natural and wholesome.

It would be difficult to find a sharper contrast than that between the last named novel and Miss Warden's new tale, "Schererazade," is a peculiar book, and the scene is cast in anything but pleasant places. The heroine is a little Eurasian damsel who affects Orientalism to an altogether improbable extent. To her comes a young fellow who incontinently falls over head in love and whose sudden affection she returns with an ardor not perceptibly removed from abandonment. They get married in spite of the manifest folly of the step, and then mysteries begin to thicken. A wicked East Indian, who appears to be intended for "Brother of the Shadow," yet who only once practises his magic art upon Nouna, pursues her in a weird manner. Money comes to her unintelligibly. A large income is assured her. The young couple launch into fashionable life and things appear to be proceeding swimmingly, when the husband makes an awful discovery, namely, that his wife's mother is a notorious figure in the demi-monde, known as Chloris White. It turns out, too, that this same bad woman is the lawful wife of Nouna's father, who is an English peer, and who has married again, with the cheerful disregard of law and ethics supposed by some romancers to be characteristic of the British aristocracy. The young fellow, on finding this out, refuses naturally to receive any more money from Chloris White, and she therefore vows vengeance upon him and obtains it before long. The story is decidedly sensational, not badly written, but with a steady indifference to probability, which renders still less justifiable the somewhat risque character of the plot. Nouna, the heroine, is rather a novel conception, but hardly a natural or a comprehensible one.

"A Village Maid" is not a very brilliant or interesting novel. Perhaps it has some claim to the title realistic, for no doubt there are hundreds of villages life in which is as humdrum and monotonous as most of this story. There does not, however, appear to be any sufficient reason for multiplying photographs of this particular kind of existence.

Instruction.

For Young Ladies—City. MADAME DA SILVA, 24 West 38th-st., English, French and German Boarding and Day School for Girls. Reopens October 3.

MISS ROBERTS AND MISS WALKER will reopen their Day School for Young Ladies, 145 Madison-ave., on Wednesday, September 25.

MISS JENNIE HUNTER'S SCHOOL and Kindergarten reopen Saturday, October 2, 21 East 45th-st.

MISS E. L. KOUES Boarding and Day School for young ladies and children, 45 East 68th-st., New York. Graduate prepared for college. Reopens October 3.

MADEMOISELLE ELLEN will reopen, Saturday, October 3, 175 West 73rd-st.

MISSES A. & M. FALCONER PERRIN'S School for Girls, with Gymnasium. Ninth year begins September 23, 2021 8th-ave. Bearing pupils, \$35.

MRS. GALLAHER'S School for Young Ladies opens October 3, 61 East 55th-st.

Reopens October 3, 23 West 23rd-st. Branches in Harlem, Jersey City, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington. Conversational knowledge in shortest time, \$10 per term.

GRAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, 44-46 West 23rd-st., and 44-45 The LEADING SCHOOL OF MUSICAL EDUCATION, DRAMA, ARTS, SCIENCE, and TRADES. Drawing and Painting. Free-admittance equal to ten lessons per week. For particulars address.

THE MISSES WRENKES, 37 East 68th-st. BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES and KINDERGARTEN, open Saturday, October 23. Circulars sent on application.

THE MISSES GRINNELL will reopen their DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 22 EAST 44TH-ST., October 3. Boys' classes, Sept. 23, Kindergarten, French Method, Oct. 10.

THE COMSTOCK SCH. O.L. (Established 1852) 32 West 40th-st., New York. English, French and German Boarding and day school for young ladies and children. Opened October 3, 1887. MISS WARREN, 71 West 47th-st.—School for girls, open Saturday 23 Boys' department, Tuesday 23, Harvard Tutor.

MADEMOISELLE RUEL, 26 East 56th-st. SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. Reopens October 5. Number limited to fifty.

ST. JOHNS BAPTISTS CHIOL, 233 East 17th-st., N.Y.—A boarding and day school for young ladies and children. English, French, Latin, & German. Boarding and day school for boys. Terms for advanced pupils from \$60 to \$125.

THE BERLITZ SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES (See advertisement under schools for both sexes.)

THE MISSES WRENKES, 37 East 68th-st. BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES and KINDERGARTEN, open Saturday, October 23. Circulars sent on application.

THE MISSES GRINNELL will reopen their DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 22 EAST 44TH-ST., LONG ESTABLISHED, OCTOBER 3.

THE MISSES MASON'S English and French School for Young Ladies and Children, reopens October 3 at 4:30 P.M. Special course for advanced pupils. At home Sept. 10.

VAN NORMAN INSTITUTE (Founded 1857) Re-opens September 23rd, in "Morgan Mansion," 20 Central Park West, at 62nd-st. MME. VAN NORMAN, Principal.

FOR BOYS and YOUNG MEN—CITY. A. MESSRS. WILSON & KELLOGG'S SCHOOL, NO. 543 FIFTH-AVE. Prepares for all Colleges, Scientific Schools and Business. Eleventh year.

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MISS ROBERTS AND MISS BECK'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 55 West 47th-st., New York. Reopens September 29th.

MISS CROCKER AND MISS BECK'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 31 West 42nd-st., opposite Bryant Park, reopens September 29th.

MISS MARY HARRIOTT NORRIS, 987 Fifth Avenue, after Sept. 26th.

Fifteenth Class in Higher English received Oct. 10th. Twenty young ladies only received. Are limited from fifteen to twenty. Pupils exclusively under Miss Norris's instruction. Members accepted, if satisfactory, in order of application.

MISS SPRINGS English and French School for Young Ladies and Children, 121 Madison-ave., near Park-ave., will reopen Wednesday, September 26th. Drawing, Elocution, Calisthenics and Sewing included in the course. Lectures on Literature, History, Natural Philosophy &c. special course for advanced pupils. At home Sept. 10th.

MISS CHISHOLM'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 15 West 65th-st., New York. Boys' Classes.

MISS GIBBONS' SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 55 West 47th-st., New York. Reopens September 29th.

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